

## **Historic, Archive Document**

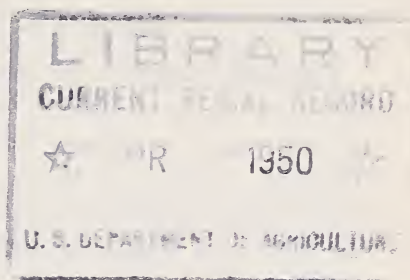
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# The Direct Distribution of Food



The United States Department of Agriculture makes available to nonprofit schools, welfare agencies, and eligible institutions, foods acquired under its agricultural programs. It also assists schools to improve the quality of the noonday lunches served to children, by supplying foods it has purchased especially for this purpose. The various steps taken to put these foods to the best possible use are known as

## THE DIRECT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION  
Food Distribution Programs Branch  
Washington, D. C.

# **The Direct Distribution of Food**

## **Objective of Direct Distribution**

The main objective of direct distribution is to find a constructive use for a part of our food production that cannot move through commercial channels at prices fair to farmers. Through timely purchases, markets are strengthened, and food which otherwise might not be eaten is used to improve the diets and health of school children and needy persons.

## **Where Does the Food Come From?**

Foods are made available for direct distribution by the Department of Agriculture from purchases authorized under two laws:

1. Section 32 refers to the act of August 24, 1935, as amended, and related legislation, which provide that an amount equal to 30 percent of the annual United States customs receipts may be used to expand markets for farm production. These funds may be used to encourage exports, to divert farm products to byproducts and new uses, and to distribute food domestically outside the normal channels of trade. The purpose of the direct distribution program under section 32 is to utilize a part of agricultural surpluses as food for human consumption.

2. Section 6 refers to that section of the National School Lunch Act, approved June 4, 1946, which provides funds to purchase foods which will help participating schools meet important nutritional needs of children. These foods are usually in abundant supply and their purchase by the Department of Agriculture may also help to solve a marketing problem.

### **Who May Receive Commodities?**

All schools of high-school grade or under, charitable institutions, and organizations caring for needy persons may make application to receive direct-distribution commodities. Foods are distributed to groups which cooperating State agencies determine meet the requirements of the United States Department of Agriculture. Purchases under section 6 are made for distribution only to schools participating in the national school lunch program.

### **How Much Is Distributed?**

Approximately 475 million pounds of food commodities, at a cost to the Government of approximately \$50,000,000, were distributed under the section 32 and section 6 programs during the period July 1, 1948, to June 30, 1949.

Section 32 commodities available for distribution vary from year to year, both as to kind and quantity. During the year ended June 30, 1949, section 32 distribution included white potatoes, sweetpotatoes, honey, canned and dried fruits, citrus juice, fresh vegetables, and dried eggs. These products were distributed to State agencies and made available to nearly  $7\frac{3}{4}$  million school children, and almost  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million persons cared for by charitable institutions and organizations.

Section 6 commodities, which were distributed to approximately 6 million children participating in the national school lunch program during the 1948-49 school year, included canned tomatoes and tomato paste, concentrated orange juice, peanut butter, American processed Cheddar cheese, and nonfat dry milk solids.

### **Who Is Responsible for Direct Distribution?**

Within the United States Department of Agriculture, the Food Distribution Programs Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration is responsible for administering this program. State and local distributing agencies, operating under an agreement with the United States Department



of Agriculture, play a most important part in the successful operation of the program.

Direct-distribution foods are shipped in carload lots by the United States Department of Agriculture to receiving points within each State. There, State and local agencies break down the shipments into smaller lots and arrange for the delivery of these foods to eligible groups. They also decide which applicants meet the requirements established by the Department of Agriculture and insure that eligible groups are supplied with these foods only as requested and in amounts that can be effectively utilized. In cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture they also encourage the best use of these foods by providing information on their proper handling and storage, and by furnishing recipes and menus featuring the foods distributed.

For further information about the direct-distribution program in your locality, write to the Food Distribution Programs area office that serves your State or Territory.

#### **AREA OFFICES OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS BRANCH**

Atlanta, 449 West Peachtree Street NE.

(Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Kentucky, Alabama).

Chicago, 623 South Wabash Avenue

(Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin).

Dallas, 101 Norman Building

(Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado).

New York, 641 Washington Street

(Maine, Delaware, New Hampshire, Vermont, West Virginia, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, District of Columbia, Massachusetts).

San Francisco, 30 Van Ness Avenue

(Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, California, Arizona, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Utah).

Honolulu, T. H., 418 Dillingham Building

(Hawaii).

San Juan, Puerto Rico, P. O. Box 4349

(Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands).